

10/520848  
DT12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 JAN 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**GAUTHIER et al**

Atty. Ref.: **3952-73**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/FI2003/000523**

International Filing Date: **27 June 2003**

Filed: **Herewith** Examiner:

For: **SUPPORT INTENDED TO BE SILICONIZED BY  
SILICONES (LTC)**

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**January 11, 2005**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows: